

R E M A R K S

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-6 and 11-13 are allowed.

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bisbing (5,150,500).

Claims 7 and 8 are amended.

Claims 9 and 10 remain unchanged in text, as previously submitted, but are effectively amended by being dependent from amended claims 9 and 10

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner stated that Bisbing:

“...shows a body mounting plate 26 having a spherical surface 32, a hinge plate 28 having a spherical surface 50, a door mounting member 12 having a first portion 14 attachable to a door and a second portion 60 attachable to a hinge pin, the spherical surfaces are adjustable, the spherical surface of the body mounting plate is larger than that of the hinge plate (see figure 4).”

Applicant argues that the foregoing statement by the Examiner is in error and therefore can't be used to support the rejection.

Bisbing does not mention or suggest any “spherical” surface on any part of the described hinge. There is a showing of a hinge having a hinge plate (28) with a “concave surface” (50), a body plate with a “convex surface” (32), and adjustable attaching means (42, 52, 44) to enable the hinge to be adjusted about a fixed axis to compensate for different thicknesses of weather stripping that may be used and therefore prevent misalignment of a door. However, the adjustable surfaces shown and described are cylindrical – not spherical.

The adjustable lift-off hinge in Bisbing is completely different in function, purpose and design from the hinge recited in claims 7-10 presented by Applicant. The adjustable lift-off hinge assembly of Bisbing comprises a support member (12) about which the door would pivot and which is fixedly mounted to the door frame (22). Bisbing then uses a knuckle assembly (24) attached to the vehicle body. The knuckle assembly (24) is comprised of a longitudinal adjustable knuckle member

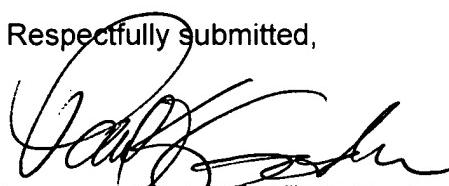
(28), called a hinge plate by the Examiner, and means for pivotally coupling a fixed base member (26) to the adjustable knuckle member (28) (column 3, lines 33-37). The fixed base member (26) has a planar surface (30) for mounting the fixed base member (26) to the door (20), and a cylindrically convex outer surface (32) along its longitudinal axis (column 3, lines 39-43). This permits adjustment about the longitudinal axis only when the fixed base member (26) is pivotally coupled to the adjustable knuckle member (28).

There is no equivalent structure in Bisbing to the present invention because the present invention has a body mounting plate (5) with a spherically convex outer surface (15) which when pivotally coupled to the spherically concave base portion (14) of the hinge plate (6) permits flexible adjustment and alignment of the hinge axis with that of another hinge on the same door. Note that the hinge plate (6) and the body mounting plate (5) are mounted on the vehicle body, not on the door as in Bisbing. The purpose is to be able to adjust the hinge pin axis when the door is being mounted on the vehicle frame, not to provide a lift-off hinge than can be adjusted about a fixed longitudinal axis.

Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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